

I claim:

1. An image data recording apparatus comprising:
 - image signal processing means for converting an image signal to a digital image signal;
 - first image compressing means for encoding said digital image signal to first image data according to first recording format;
 - second image compressing means for encoding said digital image signal to second image data according to second recording format whose coding rate is lower than the coding rate of the first recording format;
 - recording means for recording image data on a recording medium;
 - transmission means for transmitting image data to an external apparatus; and
 - control means for providing control so that said digital image signal is encoded to said second image and recorded on said recording medium, and after connection is established with the external apparatus, said digital image signal is encoded to said first image data and transmitted to the external apparatus via the transmission means.
2. An image data recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means provides further control so that if said recording medium has not a sufficient recording capacity, the recorded first image

data is erased from said recording medium after said first image data is recorded on said recording medium and then transmitted via said transmission means to the external apparatus.

3. An image data recording apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising display means for displaying images, and image decoding means for decoding said second image data to an image signal which can be represented on said display means,

wherein said control means provides further control so that if an operation is made to instruct replay, said second image data recorded on said recording medium is decoded by said image decoding means and images are displayed on said display means based on the decoded second image data.

4. An image data recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:

image signal processing means for converting an image signal to a digital image signal;

first image encoding means for encoding said digital image signal to first image data according to first recording format;

second image encoding means for encoding said digital image signal to second image data according to second recording format whose coding rate is lower than the coding rate of the first recording format;

a first drive for recording and reproducing said first image data on and from an interchangeable first recording medium;

a second drive for recording and reproducing said second image data on and from a second recording medium therein;

a display means for displaying images;

image decoding means for decoding said second image data to an image signal which can be represented on said display means; and

control means for providing control so that said second image data recorded on said recording medium is decoded by said image decoding means and images are displayed on said display means based on the decoded second image data.

5. An image data recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said control means provides further control so that if an operation is made to instruct replay image data but the requested image data cannot be replayed from said first drive, the corresponding second image data recorded on said second recording medium is decoded by said image decoding means and images are displayed on said display means based on the elongated second image data.

6. An image data recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said control means provides

further control so that if an operation is made to instruct replay image data and the requested image data can be replayed from said first drive, the corresponding first image data recorded on said first recording medium is decoded by said image decoding means and images are displayed on said display means based on the decoded first image data.

7. An image data recording method comprising the steps of:

- establishing connection with an external apparatus;
- converting an image signal to a digital image signal;

- encoding said digital image signal to first image data according to first recording format;

- encoding said digital image signal to second image data according to second recording format whose coding rate is lower than the coding rate of the first recording format;

- recording said second image data on a recording medium; and

- transmitting said first image data to said external apparatus.

8. An image data recording method according to Claim 7, wherein said first image data is recorded on said recording medium and then transmitted to the external apparatus and the recorded first image data is erased from

said recording medium after the transmission is complete.

9. An image data recording method according to Claim 7 wherein if an operation is made to instruct replay, second image data recorded on said recording medium is decoded and images are displayed on display means based on the decoded second image data.

10. An image data recording and reproducing method comprising the steps of:

converting an image signal to a digital image signal;

encoding said digital image signal to first image data according to first recording format;

encoding said digital image signal to second image data according to second recording format whose coding rate is lower than the coding rate of the first recording format;

recording said first image data on an interchangeable first recording medium;

recording said second image data on second recording medium;

decoding second image data recorded on said second recording medium; and

displaying images on display means based on the decoded second image data.

11. An image data recording and reproducing method according to Claim 10 wherein if it is requested to replay

image data but the requested image data cannot be replayed based on the corresponding first image data, the corresponding second image data recorded on said second recording medium is decoded and images based on the elongated second image data are displayed.

12. An image data recording and reproducing method according to Claim 10, wherein if it is requested to replay image data and the requested image data can be replayed based on the corresponding first image data, that first image data recorded on said first recording medium is decoded and images are displayed on said display means based on the decoded first image data.

13. An information recording method comprising the steps of:

- establishing connection with an external apparatus;
- converting an information signal to a digital information signal;

- encoding said digital information signal to first information data according to first recording format;

- encoding said digital information signal to second information data according to second recording format whose coding rate is lower than the coding rate of the first recording format;

- recording said second information data on a recording medium; and

- transmitting said first information data to said

external apparatus.

14. An information recording and reproducing method comprising the steps of:

converting an information signal to a digital information signal;

encoding said digital information signal to first information data according to first recording format;

encoding said digital information signal to second information data according to second recording format whose coding rate is lower than the coding rate of the first recording format;

recording said first information data on an interchangeable first recording medium;

recording said second information data on second recording medium;

decoding second information data recorded on said second recording medium; and

displaying information on display means based on the decoded second information data.